

**K**ENTWOOD

**F**IRE

**D**EPARTMENT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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## FROM CHIEF BRENT LOOMAN

My goal in presenting this annual report is to provide a picture of what the members of the Kentwood Fire Department do on a daily basis, while specifically highlighting the activities of 2019.

The men and women of the Kentwood Fire Department are dedicated to protecting the residents, businesses and visitors to the City of Kentwood and are committed to providing the highest level of service to our community. It is an honor and privilege to serve our City.

Thank you Mayor Kepley, City Commissioners, and citizens of Kentwood for your continuing support.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Looman".



# VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES



# CITY OF KENTWOOD

## VISION

The City of Kentwood is a diverse Michigan community where people can find opportunity, safety, health and happiness.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Kentwood provides high quality services to foster a thriving community for all.

## CORE VALUES

- **Extraordinary Customer Service:** We provide responsive and consistent customer service. We listen to each other and to the public in our effort to deliver services in a respectful manner.
- **Integrity:** We safeguard our fiscal and natural resources through best management practices and transparency. We hold ourselves accountable to ensure public trust.
- **Equity:** We believe in fairness and helping people in the way they need to be helped. We recognize, embrace and champion the differences that make us unique.
- **Communication:** We actively inform the community and encourage community collaboration in all aspects of municipal government.
- **Leadership:** We are team players that encourage innovative solutions to meet community needs. We work to the highest standards of proficiency and are creative problem solvers.



# KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

## VISION

The Fire Department is a leader in providing public safety and emergency services to the customers of the City of Kentwood as part of a dynamic and professional team. We are dedicated to our Core Values and are committed to creating a diverse workforce reflective of the community we serve with our training, policies and procedures that are free from bias and discrimination.

This vision drives us to be our best to one another, the City and our customers.

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Fire Department to preserve life, property and protect the environment; to promote public safety; and foster economic growth through customer service, leadership, professional development, management, and actions as an all risk, all hazards life safety response provider.



## CORE VALUES

- **Serve with integrity, honesty and trust:** We understand the trust placed in us by the City of Kentwood and our customers. We are committed to honesty, integrity and respect. These are our Rules of Conduct that govern our behavior both on and off the job.
- **Effectively communicate with stakeholders:** We have a duty to collaborate and cooperate with all City Departments and the community in which we serve to provide an exceptional customer service team. Our teamwork and cooperative spirit reaches out to the customer—a valued asset to the team.
- **Safeguard use of fiscal and natural resources:** We have an obligation and responsibility to our customers to be stewards of our resources, both natural and fiscal.
- **Serve customers with excellence:** We succeed in the pursuit of excellence and high professional standards by focusing our attention on the customer. The City of Kentwood exists to serve the customer and our community. Their needs give us our direction and purpose.

**This is our commitment to them.**



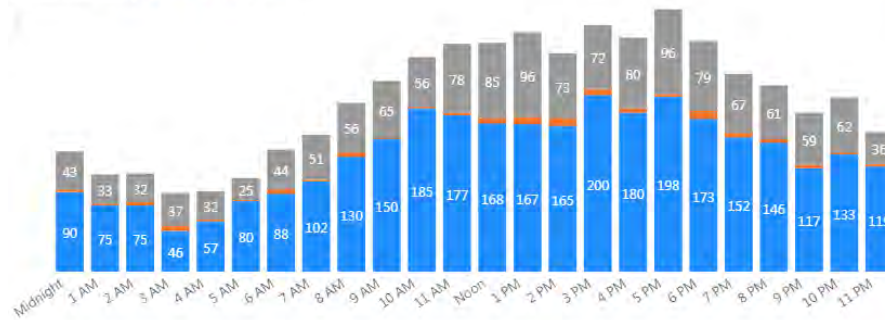


# KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## FAST FACTS

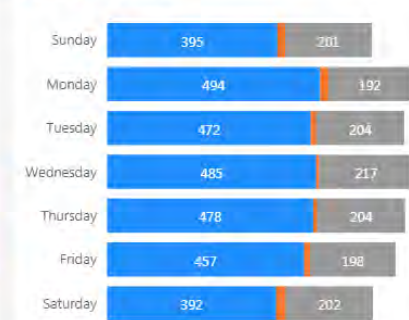
# of Incidents by Hour of the Day

Incident Category ● EMS ● Fire ● Other

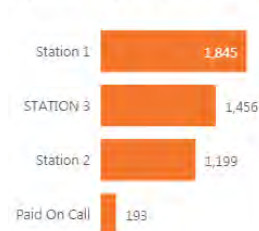


# of Incidents by Weekday and Incident Category

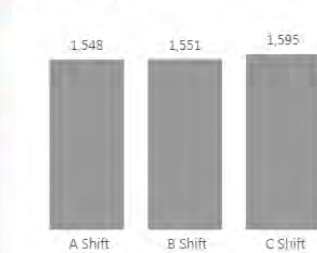
● EMS ● Fire ● Other



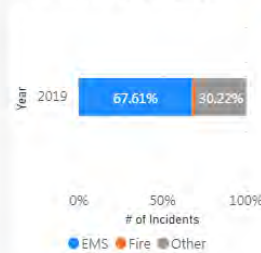
Top Stations by # of Incidents



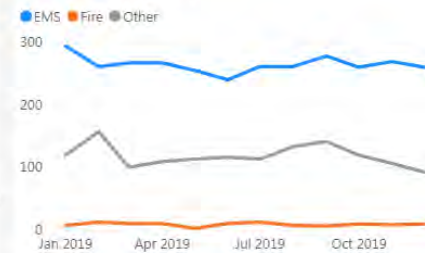
# of Incidents by Shift



# of Incidents by Category

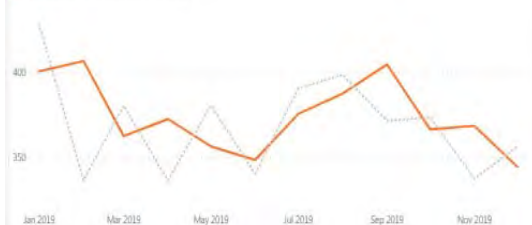


# of Incidents over Time

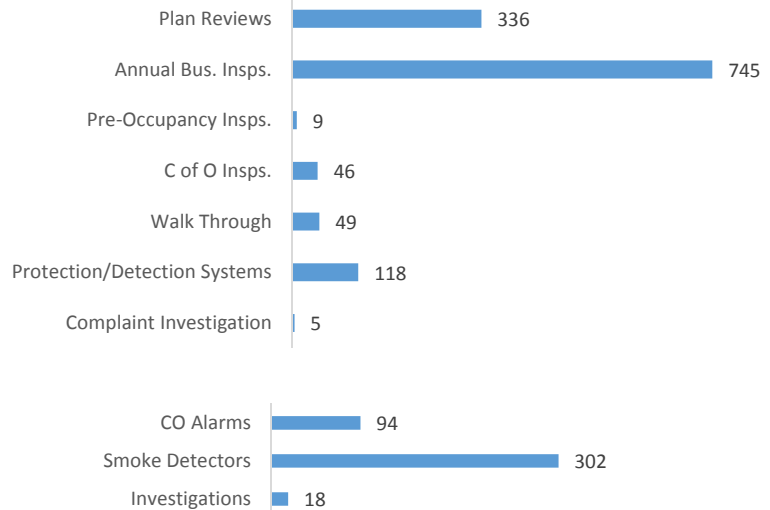


# of Incidents by Month

● # of Incidents ● # of Incidents (Prior Year)



Fire Prevention



Number of Incidents	Pre-Incident Property Value	Pre-Incident Contents Value	Total Pre-Incident Value	Property Saved	Property Loss	Contents Saved	Contents Loss	Total 2019 Losses	Total 2019 Saved
36	\$43,522,240	\$38,156,015	\$81,678,255	\$43,223,800	\$298,440	\$37,892,700	\$263,315	\$561,755	\$81,116,500





# PERSONNEL



Without well-trained and proficient employees the Kentwood Fire Department would not have earned our excellent reputation. In 2019 there were many changes in staff.

### RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

#### ROSS TIBBETS



9/25/02 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
8/21/10 Promoted to  
Lieutenant/Inspector  
4/11/19 Resigned

#### ANDY HEINBECK



9/24/02 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
7/28/05 Promoted to  
Engine Operator  
5/6/19 Retired

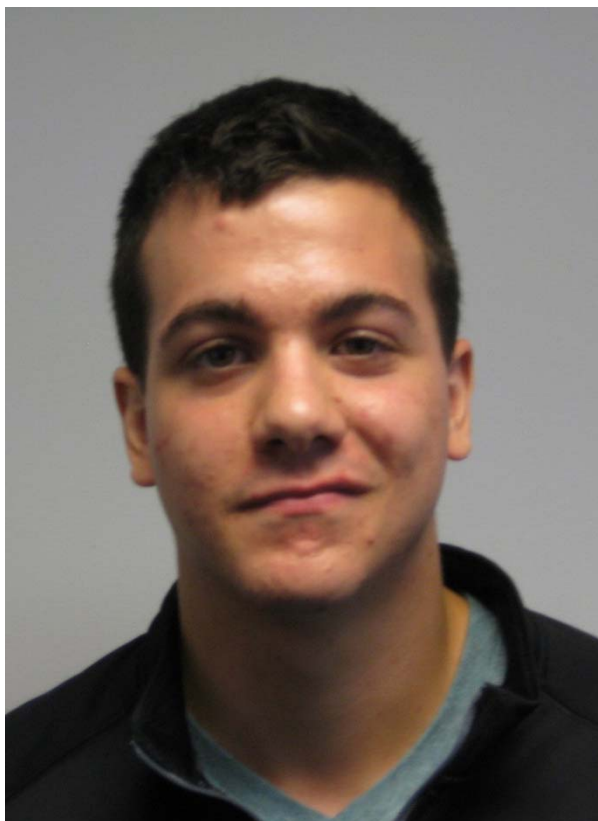


**STEVE LUYK**



10/10/91 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
5/9/19 Retired

**ALLEN SMITH**



9/29/15 Paid On Call Fire  
Fighter  
6/4/19 Resigned



### TODD BARTON



10/1/03 Paid on Call Fire  
Fighter  
7/1/17 Promoted to Paid On  
Call Sergeant  
6/1/19 Retired



Sgt. Barton celebrates his retirement with some of the paid on call fire fighters.





## PHIL VERBURG



9/22/01 Paid on Call Fire  
Fighter  
2/28/05 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
3/10/09 Promoted to Engine  
Operator  
9/22/19 Retired

## RYAN WESTENBURG



11/15/18 Paid on Call Fire  
Fighter  
11/5/19 Resigned



## KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Retirements, resignations and additional officer positions provided promotional opportunities for current employees and openings for new personnel.

### PROMOTIONS

#### NICK HARKES



1/14/13 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
5/11/19 Promoted to  
Engine Operator

#### BRYAN LYNCH



1/8/02 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
7/23/06 Promoted to  
Engine Operator  
4/28/18 Promoted to Fire  
Inspector  
6/22/19 Promoted to Fire  
Marshal



## JEFF BOUWKAMP



4/9/92 Paid On Call Fire  
Fighter  
7/26/99 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
7/19/05 Promoted to Engine  
Operator  
8/3/19 Promoted to  
Lieutenant/Inspector

## JIM HOSIER



4/28/12 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
8/3/19 Promoted to Engine  
Operator





## ERIC DEGROOT



9/6/14 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
8/4/19 Promoted to  
Lieutenant/Inspector

## PAT QUICK



6/99 Paid On Call Fire  
Fighter  
7/10/01 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
7/21/06 Promoted to Engine  
Operator  
8/31/19 Promoted to Fire  
Inspector



**KURT NUFFER**



9/12/02 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
10/26/19 Promoted to  
Lieutenant/Inspector

**ADAM TANIS**



4/25/15 Full-Time Fire Fighter  
10/27/19 Promoted to  
Lieutenant/Inspector



## **NEW HIRES**

Minimum requirements to apply for a position as a Full-Time Kentwood Fire Fighter include certification as a Michigan Fire Fighter II and Michigan licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Eligible applicants must successfully complete a validated written exam, 1-2 panel interviews, a physical agility test that simulates activities a fire fighter must perform, a background check, a psychological evaluation, and a complete medical exam, including drug screen.

During the interviews candidates consistently noted that the Kentwood Fire Department has a reputation for being professional, progressive, and customer-oriented, where employees strive for excellence and take pride in their work.

The Fire Fighters that were hired in 2019 share those values.



## RYAN RICKETSON



Ricketson began his full-time fire service career in Kentwood on 6/15/19.

His resume also includes other public safety experience:

- Kentwood Police Cadet
- Michigan State Trooper
- Battle Creek Police Officer
- Grand Rapids Police Officer
- Thornapple Fire Fighter/EMT
- Yankee Springs Fire Fighter/EMT

## CORY MYERS



Myers had approximately 5 years of emergency service experience before becoming a full-time Kentwood Fire Fighter on 6/17/19. His previous employment includes:

- Manheim Twp. (PA) Fire Fighter Intern
- Cumberland Goodwill (PA) EMT
- Lansing Twp. (MI) Fire Fighter/EMT
- Delhi Twp. (MI) Fire Fighter/EMT





### MICHELE KASUNIC



Ms. Kasunic resigned her full-time Records Clerk position in the Kentwood Police Department to become the part-time Office Assistant in the Kentwood Fire Department in January. With 19 years of experience in Police data entry and records management, Michele was ready for a new challenge within the City of Kentwood.



City Clerk Dan Kasunic administers the oath of office to Fire Inspector Pat Quick (above) and Lieutenants Kurt Nuffer and Adam Tanis (below).





# FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

CITY

UNION



**MATT HOLLINRAKE** has been a member of the Kentwood Fire Department nearly 25 years, having worked as a Fire Fighter (paid on call and full-time), Engine Operator, and currently Lieutenant/Inspector. Hollinrake oversees the department radios used for daily communications and manages the audio/visual equipment in the training rooms in all fire stations.



**MIKE MULLER** was selected by fellow members of the Kentwood Professional Fire Fighters Union (IAFF Local 3174) for his years of service. In addition to his time as a Union officer, his work on negotiating collective bargaining agreements with the City has helped assure fair and equitable solutions for all.



## AWARDS

The Kentwood Fire Department recognizes the performance and achievements of its sworn employees by the award of certificates and bars to be worn on the uniform. The following awards were issued for 2019.

### LIFE SAVING



A Life Saving Award is given to a fire fighter who is directly responsible for saving a human life.

February 4, 2019: Arrived at a call and found a patient in cardiac arrest

Andrew Biederman

Kevin Maday

Mark Herron

Ross Tibbets

Dean Krueger

Carbon monoxide alarms that had been installed three weeks earlier alerted occupants of high levels of carbon monoxide within three homes

Bryan Lynch

Patrick Quick





## UNIT CITATION



A Unit Citation is awarded to a Kentwood Fire Department shift, crew, team, or group for exceptional accomplishment or achievement or outstanding performance during a specific incident.

### April 28, 2019: Rescued victim from an apartment fire

Philip Autsema  
Michael Muller  
Michael Navetta

Gary Post  
Paul Schemper  
Adam Tanis

### June 18, 2019: Rescued victim from a house fire

Jeffrey Bouwkamp  
Marc Oliver

Gary Post

### September 22, 2019: Rescued two victims from an apartment fire, suppressed the fire, and rendered aid

Todd Bacon  
Andrew Biederman  
Brian Johnson  
Matthew Hollinrake

Kurt Nuffer  
Gary Post  
Ryan Ricketson



## KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Mike Hipp presents awards to Kevin Maday (above) and Adam Tanis (below).





## EMPLOYMENT MILESTONES

Employee retention is key to our success. The following people reached employment milestones in 2019:

45 Years	Nancy Shane
25 Years	Clarence Patterson
20 Years	Jim Ellis Michele Kasunic Ryan Johnson Pat Quick
5 Years	Eric DeGroot Scott Noorman Gary Post

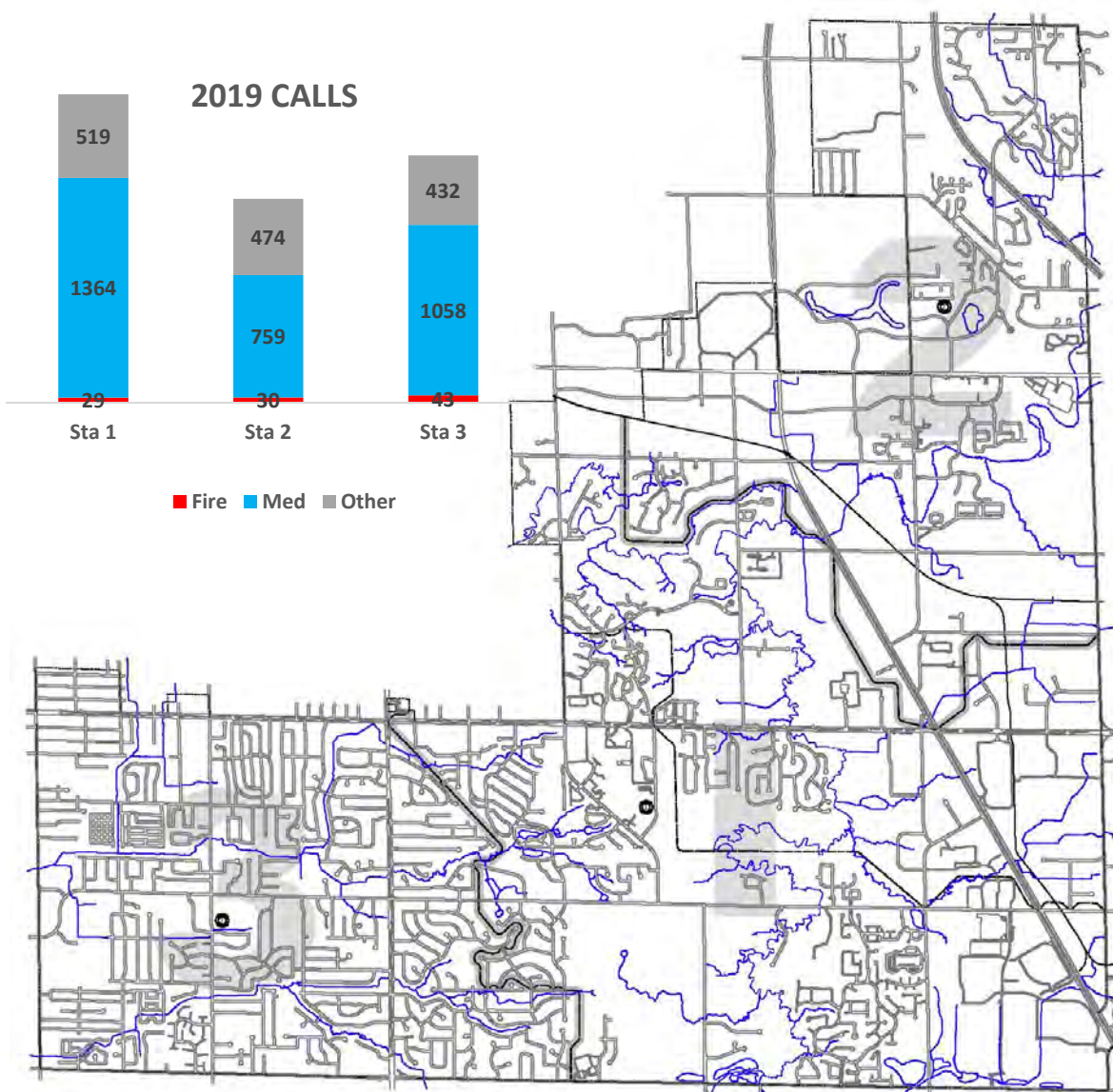


# SERVICES



The Kentwood Fire Department provides 24-hour fire, rescue, and emergency medical services from three fire stations located strategically throughout the City—on Walma (Sta. 1), Embassy (Sta. 2), and Eastern (Sta.3).

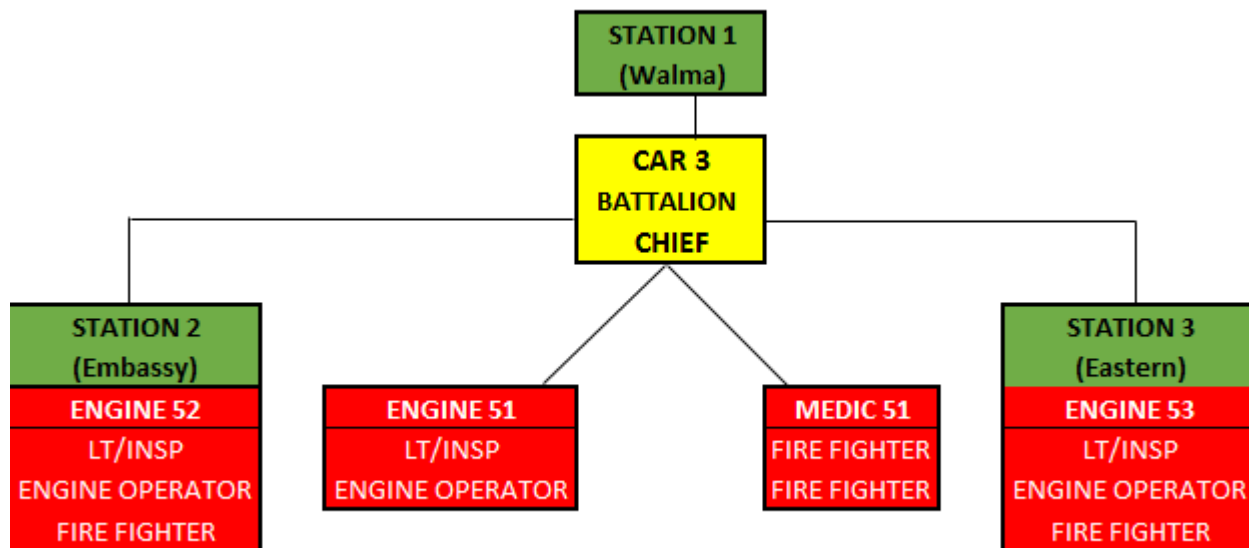
Fire administration and prevention offices are located in the central station on Walma.





## **FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION**

The Fire Suppression Division is the largest division of the Kentwood Fire Department, with 39 full-time and 10 paid-on-call officers and fire fighters. Normal full-time daily staffing is shown below.



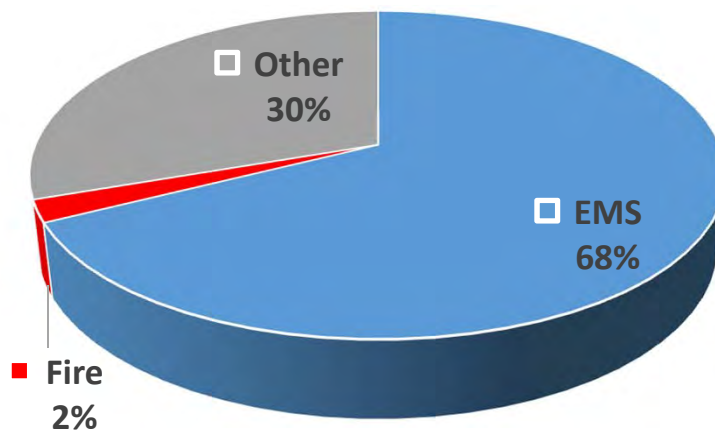
Standardized responses are in place for each type of incident to assure that the appropriate personnel and apparatus are sent by Kent County, who dispatches for the Kentwood Fire Department.



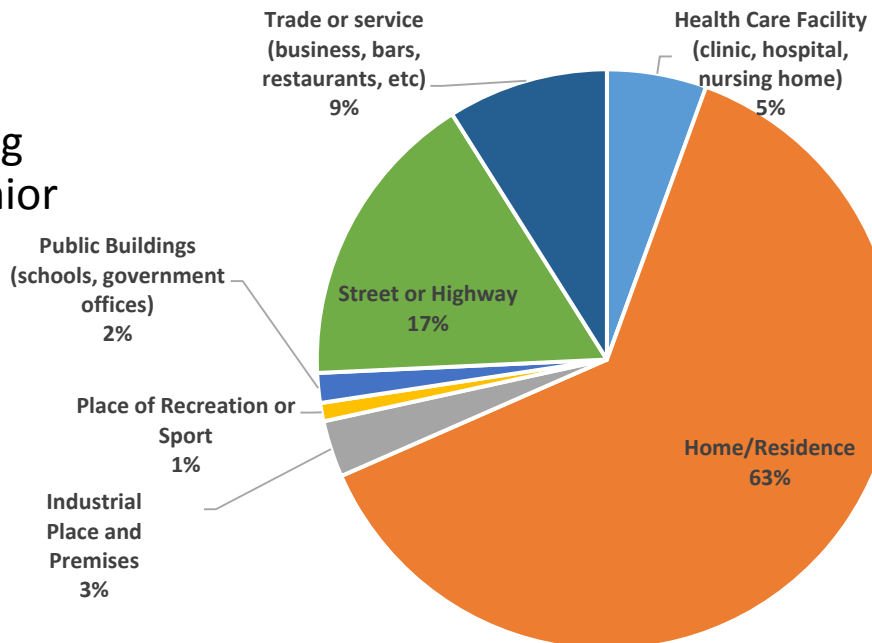


## INCIDENT RESPONSES

Nationwide, for fire departments that provide emergency medical services (EMS), approximately 70% of total responses involve medicals.



Most of the calls for service are to single- (1,318) and multi-family (1,193) residences, including apartments and senior facilities.







### FREQUENT RESPONSE LOCATIONS & NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

• Summer Haven (4740 Breton)	82
• Wingate Apts.	81
• Greentree (4320 Kalamazoo)	74
• Breton Terrace (2500 Breton Woods)	72
• Wellington Woods (4550 N. Breton Ct.)	65
• Woodland Creek Apts.	65
• Azpira Place (4352 Breton)	57
• Tamarisk Apts. (4520 Bowen)	56
• Leisure South Condos	49
• Walnut Hills Apts./Condos	48
• Breton Court Apts.	47
• American House (5980 Eastern)	41

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Wingate and Woodland Creek Apartments are in Station 2's response area. Leisure South and American House are in Station 3's area. All others are in Station 1's area.

The majority of calls were for emergency medical services.



## RESPONSE TIMES

- A fire department's ability to save lives, rescue people, extinguish fires, and reduce property damage depends on response times.
- Faster response times have been shown to make fire fighting efforts safer and minimize damage and loss.
- A rapid response time is also critical on medical calls where the patient has no pulse and is not breathing.
- Response time is calculated from the time a unit is dispatched until it arrives at the incident scene.



Response Time Goal:	5:20
2019 Averages:	
- Overall	5:17
- Fire	4:46
Structure fire	4:27
- Medical	5:13
Emergency medical	4:59



### MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID

All area fire departments rely on each other for assistance as needed. During 2019 the Kentwood Fire Department gave and received aid from neighboring departments and participated in the Division 3603 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) training drills.

	GIVEN	RECEIVED
Byron	1	
Caledonia	10	1
Cascade	32	9
Cutlerville	45	26
Dutton/Gaines	12	7
Grand Rapids	30	10
Wyoming	38	3





## NOTABLE FIRES

**Sadly, three Kentwood residents lost their lives to fires in 2019.**

At 2:33 A.M. on April 28 the Kentwood Fire Department was dispatched to 4290 Nature Trail Dr. on a report of smoke coming from the door of an apartment in a multi-family dwelling. On arrival fire fighters confirmed a fire on the second floor and personnel entered the building to locate residents still in the building. They quickly found and rescued one person and began treatment. Residents in another apartment were trapped, but safe, on their third floor balcony.

The patient was transported to the hospital but later succumbed to injuries.



Investigators found that the fire started in the kitchen.





On June 8, 2019 a passerby reported smoke coming from the home at 4812 Poinsettia. Upon arrival at 2:34 P.M. fire fighters reported smoke coming from the rear of a 1-1/2 story single family residence with cars in the driveway. A victim was found in the bedroom and brought outside for treatment. He was taken to the hospital but did not survive. Two fire fighters were injured during the fire.

Fire and Police investigators determined that the fire had been set intentionally.





Fire Fighters responded to a possible structure fire at 692 44<sup>th</sup> St. on September 22, 2019. When they arrived at 4:33 A.M. they saw smoke in the stairwell of a 3-story apartment building.

Fire fighters forced open the door of the apartment involved and rescued two unconscious people. Both were treated on the scene and transported to the hospital, but one passed away from injuries on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

One fire fighter was injured at the incident.





The largest dollar loss fire of the year occurred on January 2, 2019. Although dispatched to a structure fire at 4300 36<sup>th</sup> St., the fire was found to be a glue application machine that was burning inside the building.

Fire fighters extinguished the fire and locked out all controls on the machine. They made sure smoke was being removed from the building and checked air quality before releasing the building to the manager.

Property loss was estimated at \$100,000.







An estimated \$70,000 in damage occurred in a kitchen fire in a second floor apartment at 4651 N. Breton Ct. on November 4, 2019. The fire started on the stove and extended to the cabinets and ceiling.



A week later, on November 11, 2019, fire fighters responded to a large parts washer burning in a manufacturing building at 2929 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Employees had used fire extinguishers to put out the fire, but were unsuccessful. The fire was contained to the machine, but damage was estimated at \$50,000.





### OTHER NOTABLE INCIDENTS

On January 29, 2019 the Kentwood Fire Department assisted Caledonia, Cutlerville, and Dutton on a multi-vehicle accident on M-6 near Kalamazoo. There were only minor injuries in spite of the number of vehicles and weather conditions.



A cement truck collided with a small sport utility vehicle (SUV) on February 20, 2019 at 60<sup>th</sup> and Patterson around 1:00 A.M. There was heavy damage to the driver's side of the SUV, with the driver pinned in and unresponsive. The cement truck was on its side, but the driver got out. Fire fighters extricated the victim from the SUV and assisted the ambulance company with treatment.







A 3:12 P.M. on March 6, 2019 fire severely damaged an unapproved residence in a garage 300 feet behind the house at 1161 60<sup>th</sup> St. The cause and origin remain undetermined.



A grease fire in the fryer and hood system at the restaurant at 1700 44<sup>th</sup> St. at 3:30 A.M. on April 15, 2019 forced the business to close for several hours until repairs could be made.





## KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The driver of a mini-van and occupants of 436 44<sup>th</sup> St. were unhurt after the vehicle crashed into the building on June 15, 2019 at 9:53 A.M. Damage to the building was confined to the outside wall.



At 12:30 P.M. on June 23, 2019 several agencies responded to a motor vehicle accident with a rollover and pin-in at 44<sup>th</sup> and Breton. Fire Fighters stabilized the car, removed both front doors, and extricated two passengers who were taken to the hospital for further treatment.







Probably the most unique response occurred at 8:30 A.M. on June 14, 2019. An employee reported a file cabinet smoldering behind the building at 3333 28<sup>th</sup> St. Investigation found it to be a homemade meat smoker!



Multiple casualties were narrowly averted when a vehicle crashed into the raised curb at the Silverline bus stop at 60<sup>th</sup> and Division at 12:07 P.M. on August 31, 2019. Fire fighters used struts to stabilize the vehicle before removing the patient through the windshield.







## KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

At 8:41 P.M. on September 7, 2019 fire fighters were dispatched to 3115 Creek Dr. where a burning candle on a table caught the television on fire and spread to other areas of the apartment.



On September 11, 2019 the Kentwood Fire Department responded to a natural gas leak on the northeast corner of Sparks and East Paris at 7:50 A.M. It was determined that a subcontractor working on the Sparks/Forest Hill rehabilitation project hit the underground gas line. The contractor was billed and paid for the response as required by the City of Kentwood's hazardous materials cost recovery ordinance.





At 6:56 P.M. on October 25, 2019 the Kentwood Fire Department assisted the Cascade Township Fire Department to stop an 11,000 gallon tank leaking nitrogen at 3290 Patterson. Nitrogen is a liquid between -346°F and -320°F. It boils into nitrogen vapor at room temperature and pressure and forms a cloud that is heavier than air. A cloud was visible in the parking lot and into the road.



Fire fighters attempted to turn the valve above the leak but it was frozen solid. Next they tried to patch it with a wet rag. This slowed the leak but broke apart after freezing. A facility representative advised to cover the leak with a bucket to divert the nitrogen away from the valve and to thaw it with water until it would turn. Eventually fire personnel were able to thaw and close the valve to stop the leak.



On December 19, 2019 fire fighters were called to a truck fire in the driveway at 4489 Morningside. When they arrived at 2:29 P.M. they found that the fire had starved itself and was out. The fire appeared to have started in the driver's seat, possibly in the heated seat equipment.





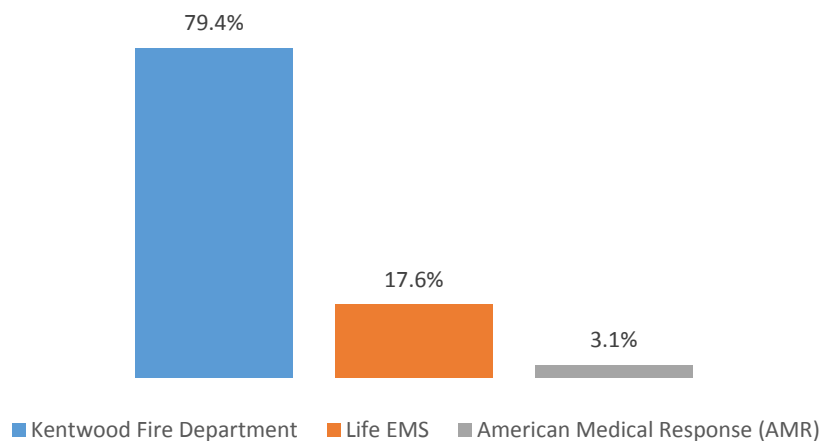


## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Kentwood Fire Department is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Basic Life Support Agency. All full-time sworn personnel are licensed emergency medical responders—34 at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level and 11 at the Paramedic level. Four paid-on-call fire fighters have also earned EMT licenses. In addition, two members are also Instructor/Coordinators who deliver the continuing education courses required to maintain all licenses.

Fire fighters respond to emergency medical calls from all three fire stations to ensure rapid responses. Seven vehicles, including primary and back-up units, are licensed by the State and carry all necessary supplies and equipment to treat sick and injured people and provide basic life support until arrival of private ambulance companies who are able to perform more advanced functions and hospital transport.

### FIRST ON SCENE





## KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2019 the Kentwood Fire Department responded to 3,180 EMS calls. In October 2009 the Fire Department ceased responses to non-life-threatening calls, such as lift assists. Even so, the number of emergency medical responses continues to increase.

The top five complaints to which fire fighters responded were:

- Breathing Problems
- Falls
- Chest Pain (non-traumatic)
- Unconscious/Fainting
- Traffic Incidents

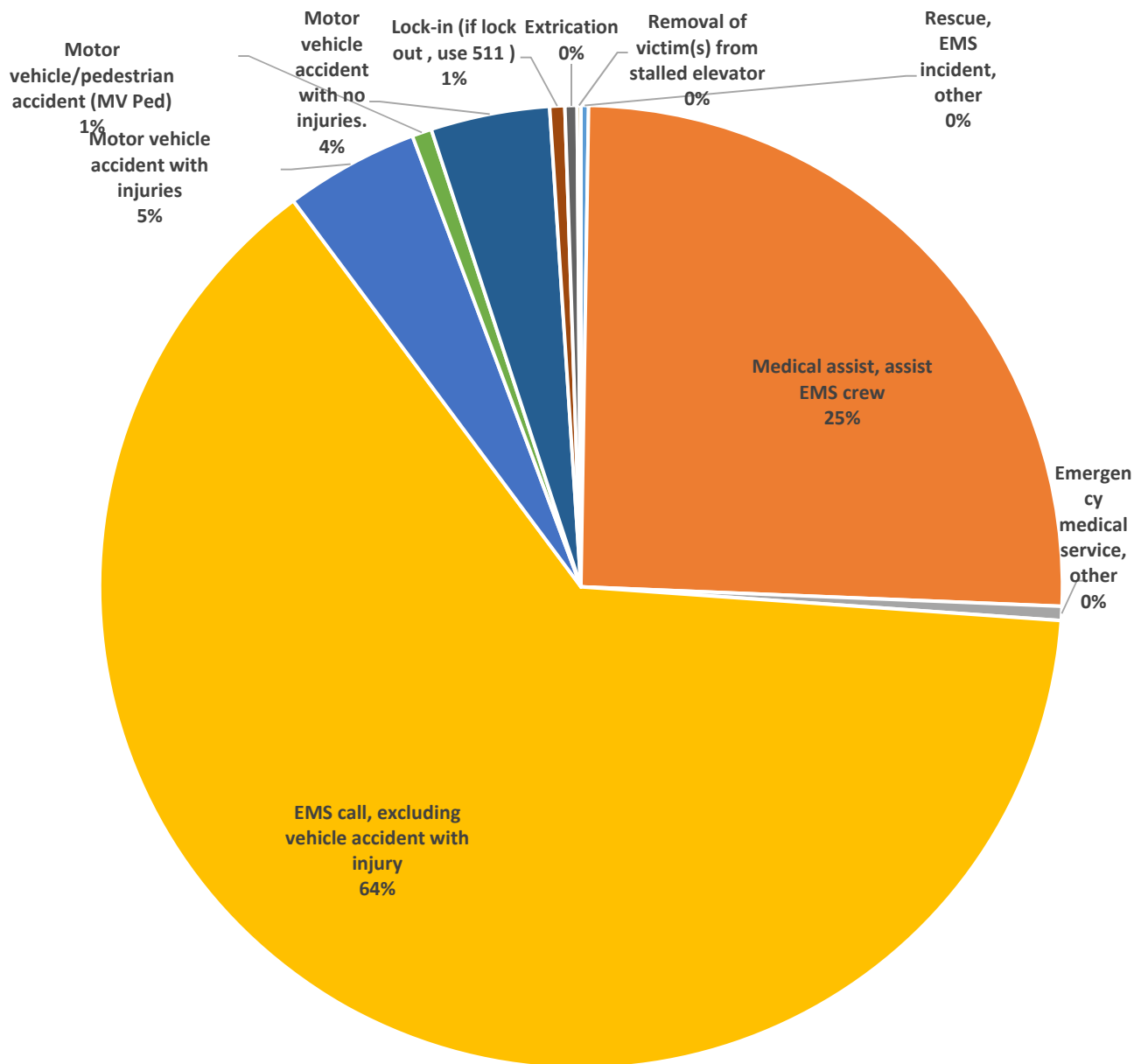


29<sup>th</sup> and Lake Eastbrook, May 11, 2019





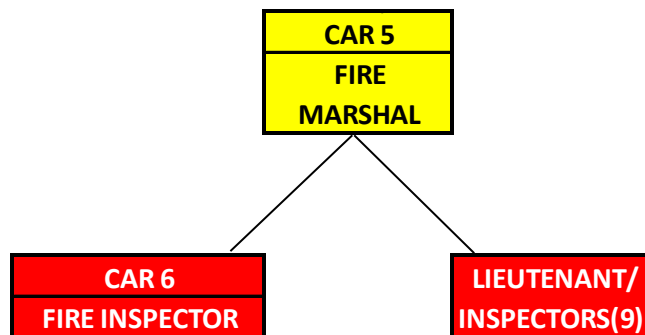
## TYPES OF EMS CALLS





## **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

The Fire Prevention Division consists of the Fire Marshal, Fire Inspector, and nine suppression Lieutenant/Inspectors.



The Fire Marshal performs all plan reviews of site plans, new construction, building additions and remodels, sprinkler and fire alarm systems in addition to conducting code compliance inspections prior to issuance of certificates of occupancy.

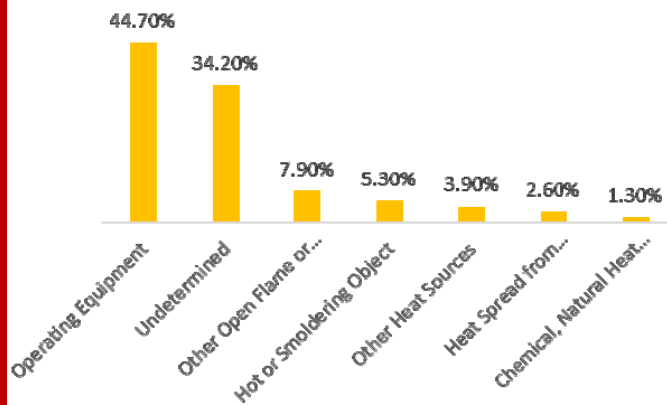
The Fire Inspector and suppression Lieutenant/Inspectors conduct annual fire code and safety inspections of Kentwood businesses throughout the year.

Chief Looman, Fire Marshal Lynch, and Fire Inspector Quick are also state-certified fire investigators and conduct cause and origin investigations as needed.



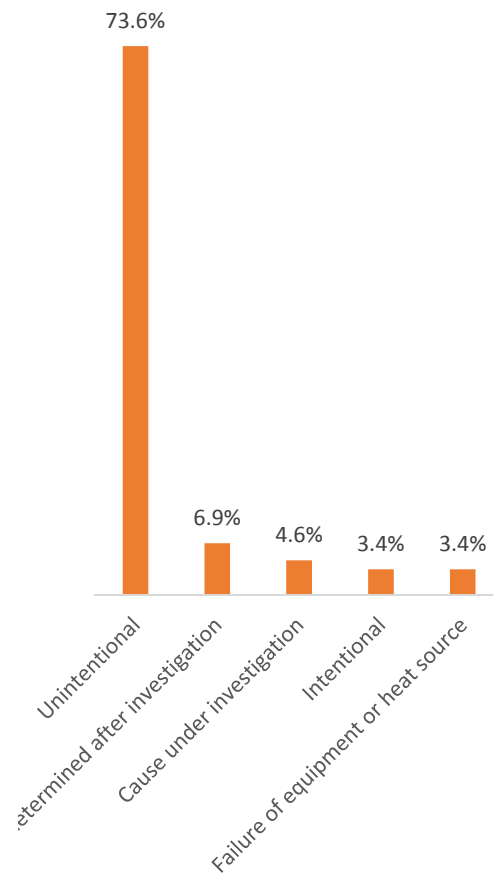
## HEAT SOURCE

Specific source of the heat energy that started a fire



## CAUSE OF IGNITION

General causal factor that resulted in a heat source igniting a combustible material





## FIRE INSPECTIONS

2019 was a year of transition in the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Fire Marshal position was vacant until Bryan Lynch was promoted in June. At the end of August Pat Quick was promoted to the open Inspector position. Further, during the year four personnel were promoted to Lieutenant/Inspector. With so many vacancies and new people, the ability to conduct annual business inspections suffered.

Construction Plan Review	336
Annual Business Inspections	745
Pre-Occupancy Inspections	9
Certificate of Occupancy Inspections	46
Walk Through	49
Protection/Detection Systems	118
Complaint Investigation	5



## SMOKE ALARMS

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that the risk of dying in a house fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

In an effort to assure proper protection, the Kentwood Fire Department installed 302 needed smoke alarms in (non-rental) homes at no charge to the residents.

Many of the alarms were obtained from a State of Michigan program and the City of Kentwood purchased a limited number with budgeted or donated funds.

**Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!**

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.</p>			<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.</p>			<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.</p>





# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is undetectable to human senses. People may not know they are being exposed. Initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu. Higher levels of exposure result in more severe symptoms and, ultimately, death.

Carbon monoxide is found in fumes produced when fuel is burned in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, or furnaces. CO can build up and poison people and animals who breathe it.

The maximum allowable concentration for continuous exposure for healthy adults is 35 parts per million (ppm).

An effective way to prevent CO poisoning is to have CO alarms in appropriate locations. The Kentwood Fire Department installed 94 CO alarms in homes. As with smoke alarms, a limited number of alarms were obtained from a state grant or purchased with City funds.





### **The importance of having properly operating CO alarms was demonstrated dramatically in late 2019.**

- On September 29<sup>th</sup> a homeowner in Leisure East Condominiums was cooking in the oven when the CO alarm sounded. Fire fighters responding to the call found CO levels near 100 ppm throughout the apartment and over 500 ppm near the oven. The CO alarm was a unit that the Kentwood Fire Department had installed earlier in the week!
- Fire Fighters installed a new CO alarm in another condo in Leisure East in the fall. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> they responded to the condo because the alarm had activated. They found that CO increased in the home when the oven was turned on and recommended that the unit be repaired. Fire Fighters returned on November 28<sup>th</sup> on a second CO alarm. This time they found a reading of 220 ppm near the stove. The homeowner and appliance provider continue to try to resolve the problem.
- A homeowner on Summer Creek Ct. called the Fire Department on December 23<sup>rd</sup> after she noticed a strange odor and heard the CO alarm after she turned up the heat. Fire Department investigation found over 185 ppm of CO throughout the house. Fire Fighters used a blood gas monitor to check four residents, and, based on the results, advised them to be evaluated by a physician. Fire Fighters turned off the gas to the furnace and told the occupants not to stay in the house until the furnace had been repaired. The Fire Department had installed CO alarms approximately three months before.

None of these homes had had carbon monoxide alarms prior to the Fire Department installing them. Without these alarms the outcome could have been tragic.



# TRAINING

It takes extensive training for the members of the Fire Department to remain proficient in the variety of hazards they can encounter. Fire suppression, emergency medical care, inspections, equipment operation, hazardous materials response, and technical rescue topics are all addressed. In addition to formal training session, shift-based training occurs daily. Most members of the department are selected to instruct at least one subject during the year.

New hires completed 100 hours of orientation and basic training before they were assigned to regular shift duty, where education continues on a daily basis throughout their one-year probationary period and beyond.



Technical Rescue



Nozzles



Ladders





Hands-on scenarios at training building inside  
Caledonia Fire Department



Teamwork/confidence building at fire officer class  
held at Kentwood Fire Department





### Instructor Coordinators teach practical and classroom EMS continuing education courses





The fire department's technical rescue team is the designated provider of technical rescue for the Kentwood Department of Public Works. Team members train in trench and confined space rescue to aid DPW workers in underground situations.

By their nature technical rescue and hazardous materials incidents involve a high degree of risk because they happen so infrequently and require specialized knowledge and skills. Training for these specialized operations requires a commitment from both the individual and the department to maintain the required level of readiness.





A very valuable training conference is the Fire Department Instructors' Conference (FDIC) held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Fire fighters from all over the world attend classes, hands-on training, and apparatus and equipment displays. Kentwood personnel share the knowledge and innovations from this conference with other Kentwood personnel in training sessions throughout the year.





In 2019 personnel spent 6,154 total staff hours in training. All required continuing education was completed.

## TRAINING SUMMARY

Administration	177:15
Apparatus	2096:00
Building	71:30
Driving	446:30
Electrical	32:30
EMS	626:35
Evolutions	46:03
Fire Officer	162:00
Fire Prevention	163:45
Fire Suppression	1312:00
Hazardous Materials	189:00
Incident Command	8:00
Fire Fighter Training Council	17:00
Public Education	4:30
Special	492:25
Technical Rescue	273:09





## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Fire Department participated in numerous public education and community events, including school visits, fire station tours, and Touch A Truck.

Ezra Antillon enjoys exploring a fire truck during his visit to a fire station.



Even though they have retired from the fire department, Sergeants Todd Barton and Henry Koetsier help at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.



People always like to see the big fire vehicles at Touch A Truck.





# WORD SEARCH

Can you find the hidden words from the list below the puzzle? Search horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, both forward and backward, to find the words. There are also overlaps, so look carefully to spot all the words.

B	X	X	A	S	T	Z	K	A	B	E	U	L	R	J	O	Q	K	J	S
V	G	O	D	H	S	L	P	F	Y	K	G	Y	G	C	T	E	W	E	A
M	R	W	F	R	Z	P	Q	W	W	H	T	F	D	N	A	A	Y	K	M
R	L	J	K	I	O	E	X	E	C	O	D	C	J	F	T	T	S	K	R
M	C	V	F	O	R	X	S	A	D	F	I	Z	B	E	N	G	I	N	E
B	J	G	G	E	S	E	L	R	N	C	A	D	R	A	S	J	B	G	T
L	O	X	Q	T	M	A	F	E	V	Y	P	F	R	L	U	P	Z	G	W
L	X	G	O	A	R	Y	O	I	S	G	M	D	L	O	L	T	O	E	R
X	G	P	L	M	E	N	I	M	G	O	Y	V	A	E	P	O	U	L	R
H	M	F	C	G	D	L	E	M	H	H	H	J	D	Y	M	C	R	J	C
V	B	J	D	X	G	S	V	R	Y	A	T	B	D	W	S	R	A	B	M
R	P	A	U	N	T	O	M	F	I	Y	Q	E	E	E	U	O	Y	W	B
T	B	E	Q	A	H	U	W	H	C	S	X	H	R	J	S	H	K	P	D
X	H	X	T	H	F	L	Y	N	C	P	F	M	D	S	M	O	K	E	V
R	C	I	A	E	O	H	E	O	T	W	H	R	H	Z	F	Z	H	N	U
D	O	T	I	L	Y	G	I	A	C	S	C	P	T	U	W	P	Y	P	W
N	W	H	G	M	R	W	O	X	X	V	T	R	U	C	K	Z	Q	L	I
J	C	Y	D	E	C	P	U	E	X	T	I	N	G	U	I	S	H	E	R
T	Q	S	M	T	A	B	R	N	O	Q	U	C	Q	Y	I	X	O	R	N
V	X	E	A	S	T	O	O	B	D	I	B	G	S	U	S	S	W	D	F

ALARM  
BOOTS  
DROP  
EXIT  
FLAMES  
HYDRANT  
ROLL  
STATION  
WATER

AXE  
CHIEF  
EMERGENCY  
EXTINGUISHER  
HELMET  
LADDER  
SIREN  
STOP

BADGE  
DOG  
ENGINE  
FIREFIGHTERS  
HOSE  
RESCUE  
SMOKE  
TRUCK



The background is a red fire truck with a chrome door handle at the top. A large, stylized yellow logo with black outlines reads "KENTWOOD FIRE DEPT." diagonally across the center. At the bottom, there are white and red diagonal stripes.

For additional information, please see our web page:

<https://www.Kentwood.us/fire>

Email us at [efire@Kentwood.us](mailto:efire@Kentwood.us)

Call or visit us at:

**Station 1:**

4775 Walma Ave., SE  
Kentwood, MI 49512  
616-554-0800

**Station 2:**

4151 Embassy Dr., SE  
Kentwood, MI 49546  
616-949-1780

**Station 3:**

5340 Eastern Ave., SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-534-7117

**CALL 9-1-1 IN AN EMERGENCY**